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WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspectors of the Districts

for the year

1967

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THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN, HATFIELD RURAL

AND WELWYN RURAL DISTRICTS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and social conditions of your Districts for 1967. As in previous years, information on the County Health and Welfare Services in Mid Hertfordshire is given in a separate section as a supplement to the main body of the report covering the work of the Public Health Departments of the District Councils. The sections dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and the Inspection and Supervision of Food have been compiled by the Public Health Inspectors to whom I am indebted.

No adverse factors during the year upset the high standard of health maintained in each District, the vital statistics comparing favourably with the neighbouring Districts in Hertfordshire and the National rates. While each District shewed a continued gain in population due to excess of births over deaths and transfer of families into the area, there was yet another fall in the number of births in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield from the peak of 1963. This is probably due to a natural interval in the number of births in families who transferred into the New Towns during the main phase of post war development and to the more general acceptance of family planning advice by the younger married couples. The low Infant Mortality Rates in each District were notable being only half of the national rate which reflects the high standard of ante natal and obstetric care.

Infectious diseases continued to decline throughout the three Districts with no recurrence of the Infectious Hepatitis of the previous year. No notifications of enteric fever was received throughout the year and there were very few cases of sonne dysentery or salmonella infection reported. The usual biennial rise in measles occurred during the first half of the year with the occasional severe and debilitating infection causing troublesome chest and throat conditions in young children. The effective vaccine against this disease to be introduced early next year will it is hoped prevent the recurring epidemics which so often cause a set back to the health of young children when starting their school life. Once again I can record a year of complete freedom from smallpox, diphtheria and poliomyelitis due to the continued support of the vaccination and immunisation schemes.

Population screening for cancer of the cervix of the uterus was commenced during September for women between the ages of 25 and 60 years at special weekly sessions held at the Elms Clinic, Potters Bar, Queensway Clinic, Hatfield, and Parkway Clinic, Welwyn Garden City. The cervical smears are also taken from women attending the hospital gynaecological department of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, the post-natal clinic at the hospital and at the family planning clinics.

The test is for apparently healthy women and the opportunity is taken at the clinic sessions to examine for any abnormality of the breasts requiring investigation and to test a sample of urine to detect diabetes. The patient and her family doctor are informed of the result and any treatment which is necessary is arranged or carried out by the family doctor. At present women are recommended to have this test at five-yearly intervals. A committee has been set up by the Hospital Management Committee under the chairmanship of your Medical Officer of Health to coordinate and advise on cytology arrangements throughout the area. By the end of the year it was already apparent that the initial demand for this service had fallen off and it will be necessary to increase publicity to persuade women in the "at risk" age group to apply for the test. There has been a good response from the management of local firms to requests for the smear test to be available to women employed by them either at the nearest health centre, or in the medical department of the firm, if this is of suitable size.

Perhaps I may be excused for again drawing the public's attention to the considerable time and skilled attention devoted by the Health Departments to the improvement of environmental health, particularly the efforts of the Public Health Inspectors in ensuring that all legislation dealing with food is applied effectively to protect our food supplies. A steady programme of inspection, investigation and advice is pursued throughout the year including detailed enquiry into particular problems which has resulted in greatly improved standards.

During 1967 Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield first became aware of the serious problem of drug addiction among young people in both towns. While the evidence disclosed that the number of young persons taking amphetamine or smoking cannabis was no greater than in other towns of similar size in the outer Metropolitan area, great concern was expressed when it was realised that a growing number of young persons were being persuaded to inject themselves with heroin and that there already existed in each town groups of young people fully addicted to heroin. Fortunately the Police department set up to combat the menace of drug addiction in the County, being located at the County Headquarters at Stanborough was conveniently placed to give close attention to the special problem of heroin taking in Mid Hertfordshire. By the end of the year steps had been taken to organise the medical and social services required to combat the addiction menace and information on the problem was made available for parents, teachers and youth leaders. A full account of the steps taken to combat drug taking is given in the section dealing with the personal health services, and at the time of writing this report it is hoped that the extension of heroin taking has been halted and that the progress already made in the treatment and rehabilitation of these young people can be maintained.

The Mid Hertfordshire Health & Welfare Services Divisional Executive was set up during the year to adminster the personal health and welfare functions of the County Council as delegated to it by the County Health & Welfare Committee. The executive held its first meeting at Hatfield in September and agreed to meet at quarterly intervals prior to the County committee.

The setting up of the Executive has been welcomed as providing an opportunity for increased participation by local representatives in directing the health and welfare services for Mid Hertfordshire, and a stimulus to the administrative staff. Also in confirmity with County policy an increasing range of local services is being transferred from County Hall to be administered from the Divisional Office.

Encouraging signs have recently been apparent of increasing support by the local communities for the voluntary committees and agencies which supplement the statutory services provided by the Local Authorities. The coordination and joint efforts of many agencies doing valuable work to assist the elderly and the disabled has been improved, for several committees which appeared to be ineffective and flagging for lack of support a year or two ago are now meeting regularly in full strength the results of their efforts being readily apparent. The desire for better coordination of community participation in a wide range of voluntary health and welfare activities is shewn by the setting up of local committees of the Council of Social Service in Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City and the close interest taken by the staff of the local health authority in promoting local societies and agencies.

In conclusion, I must again express my appreciation of the cooperation and assistance given by the Clerk and other Officers of the respective District Councils, and especially to the Public Health Inspectors who have helped me by carrying out much detailed work in addition to their routine duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. TAYLOR

July, 1968.

Medical Officer of Health

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical

Officer of Health and of the

Public Health Inspector for 1967.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G.R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E.P. RIGBY, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

L. GARDINER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector:

D.H. RATLIFF, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

Public Health Assistant:

T.D.E. TREVIS

Rodent Operative:

E.J. THOMAS

Clerks:

Mrs. D.L. WALLACE

A.A.W. CALLABY

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	4,231
Population (mid year 1967 estimated by the Registrar General)	41,460
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1968	12,490
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1968	£3,337,337
Product of a penny rate, 1967/68	£13,700

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	146	124	270
LIVE BIRTHS			
Number	333	319	652
Rate per 1,000			15.7
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			5.8
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	4	2	6
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			9
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			658
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	4	2	6
INFANT MORTALITY RATES:			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			12.0
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			9.2
Illegitimate " " " Illegitimate " "			26.4
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			4.6
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			3.0
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			12.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of population at mid 1967 was 41,460 compared with 41,000 in mid 1966. The natural increase of population i.e. excess of births over deaths 382, was 63 less than in the previous year the result, in equal proportions of fewer births and more deaths.

Deaths

As noted in recent years Cancer, Heart Disease and Cerebral Vascular Accidents, the three main causes of death in the elderly accounted for over two thirds of the total deaths during the year. Of the sixty nine deaths from Cancer, twenty two were due to lung cancer now recognised as largely attributable to excessive cigarette smoking, and twenty five due to cancer of the alimentary tract and liver.

30 out of a total of 73 deaths attributed to heart diseases were the result of coronary thrombosis.

	Male	Female	Total	Average past five years
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	-
Cancer, Malignant disease	34	35	69	51
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	18	27	45	27
Heart Diseases	41	32	73	61
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	3	7	9
Luekaemia	3	2	5	2
Pneumonia	8	6	14	11
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	10	3	13	11
Ulcer of the stomach, etc.	-	1	1	2
Road Traffic and other accidents	10	6	16	10
Diabetes	-	1	1	3
Suicide	3	-	3	3
Congenital Malformation	2	1	3	2
Nephritis	-	1	1	-
Other defined causes	12	6	18	20
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-
Measles	1	-	1	-
	146	124	270	

Deaths from Cancer: Total 69

Respiratory tract	22	Alimentary tract and liver	25
Breast	11	Uterus	5
		Unclassified	6

Comparison of Annual Rates

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1963 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1967.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1963	20.7	0.87	18.0	5.9	1.86	10.97	15.1
1964	19.1	0.87	16.6	5.9	1.86	10.97	10.5
1965	17.6	0.87	15.3	5.7	1.82	10.37	16.9
1966	16.8	0.87	14.6	5.9	1.80	10.6	20.4
1967	15.7	0.87	13.7	6.5	1.77	11.5	9.2
England and Wales 1967			17.2			11.2	18.3

652 live births were registered in the town during the year a fall of 35 from the previous year. The adjusted birth rate of 13.7 per 1,000 total population reflects this fall. The adjusted death rate of 11.5 per 1,000 total population is a little above the average of the previous five years.

Infant Mortality

The ages and causes of death of the six infants who died during the year were as follows :-

Age	Sex	Cause of death
3½ hours	M	Prematurity
1 day	M	Hyaline Membrane Disease
2 weeks	M	Congenital heart defect
1 month	M	Congenital heart defect
5 months	F	Asphyxia due to inhalation of vomit
11 months	F	Intestinal obstruction

Although wide variation of the number of infant deaths may occur from year to year, this is the lowest figure for many years and reflects credit upon the doctors and midwives for the high standard of ante natal supervision and obstetric care during delivery.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year :-

Scarlet Fever	14	Puerperal Pyrexia	21
Whooping Cough	11	Diphtheria	Nil
Measles	974	Poliomyelitis	Nil
Pneumonia	16	Erysipelas	4
Dysentery	1	Infectious Hepatitis	8

I am pleased to be able to report a further year of freedom from diphtheria, poliomyelitis and other major infectious diseases due to the high level of protection conferred by immunisation measures and the increasing awareness of the health hazards by those taking their holidays abroad.

Although the majority of the 974 measles cases notified during the year were mild infections they do mean, in total, a considerable amount of temporary illness and debility for young children often when entering nursery or primary school classes.

Practitioners in the town bring to my notice the occasional severe infection which still occurs and may cause a serious set back to a young child if associated with other debilitating illness.

Reference to the causes of deaths earlier in this report shews that one boy died from his measles infection, admittedly a rare occurrence these days, but sufficient to shew that measles, though a common infectious disease of childhood, must not be lightly considered. Following study of the results obtained at extensive trials of measles vaccine in this country and abroad, it is probable that the Ministry will recommend the general introduction of measles vaccination for the protection of young children, early in 1968.

No outbreaks of food poisoning or salmonella infection were reported to the department during the year and the town remained almost free from dysentery for which the high standard of cleanliness maintained by the staffs of food retail shops, hotels and restaurants deserve the credit.

There was a marked fall in the number of cases of infectious hepatitis reported in the town, which was in line with a reduction throughout the neighbouring Districts in the County.

Tuberculosis

Seven new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in the town during 1967 giving an attack rate of 0.17 per 1,000. One notified case of pulmonary tuberculosis was transferred from the London area, a quiescent case under observation following medical treatment. There was no death from tuberculosis during the year.

The close liaison with the work of the Chest Physicians has been well maintained during the year with ready assistance from Miss C.F. McMullen, Health Visitor, attached to the Chest Clinic in enquiries into home and family circumstances. The annual review of the tuberculosis registers in conjunction with the Chest Clinic shows a total of 203 cases under observation or treatment at the end of the year - 29 fewer than in the previous year.

All immigrant families freshly arriving in the town from abroad are visited and advised to have a chest X-ray, but no problems arose throughout the year.

The light mobile X-ray unit is stationed at Trevelyan House, Church Road, each Tuesday afternoon for the examination of persons referred by medical practitioners in the town, and diagnostic X-ray facilities are also available at the Chest Clinic sessions held at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital.

A total of 563 children received B.C.G. vaccination at school by arrangements made by the school health service during the year.

Housing

Following completion of the redevelopment of the Heather Road/ Springfields area the Council accepted a tender for the construction of 42 flats and garages on a site facing the Gooseacre Health Centre in Cole Green Lane replacing two rows of old terraced cottages since demolished. On housing scheme No.17 work commenced on building 73 additional garages and 10 additional garages on scheme No.18.

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following details of the Council's housing progress :-

	As at 31.12.67
Number of houses owned by the Council	3,024
Number of garages owned by the Council	823
Number of families housed during the year	181

Position of Application Register :-

Priority grades	207
Non-priority grades	168
Engaged couples	233

The Commission for the New Towns continued their policy of making a number of casual vacancies available for letting to applicants on the Council waiting list.

A further 219 dwellings were completed on the Panshanger scheme all of which were sold. Plans for further development of Phase 3 of this scheme are now going ahead and it is envisaged engineering works will commence mid to late 1968.

A block of twelve one-bedroomed flats in course of erection at Haldens is making good progress and should be ready for letting in early 1969.

I am grateful to Mr. C.N. Mitchell, Housing Manager of Welwyn Garden City U.D.C., and Mr. J.O. Restall, Housing Manager of the Commission for the New Towns for providing details of the housing progress during the year.

1. WATER SUPPLY

The Chief Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Lee Valley Water Company provides monthly reports regarding the quality of the water supplied to this district. During 1967 twelve such reports were received and they may be summarised as follows:-

Month obtained 1967	Total Samples	Examined Bacteriologically	Examined Chemically
January	45	41	4
February	36	34	2
March	39	37	2
April	37	34	3
May	38	37	1
June	41	40	1
July	38	36	2
August	42	39	3
September	41	40	1
October	41	40	1
November	44	41	3
December	40	38	2
	482	457	25

All the four hundred and eighty-two samples listed were considered to conform to the standard of purity suitable for public supply.

In addition, four samples of water were taken by the Lee Valley Water Company from wells situated within the area; whilst this source of supply is not used for human consumption, the results indicated that it was clear, bright and wholesome.

There is a piped water supply direct to all the dwellings in the area and a typical independant sample of water obtained from the public supply by the Health Department and submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for chemical examination gave the following results:-

Colour	Nil	Turbidity (A.P.H.A. units)	Nil
pH	7.1	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity	490	Free Carbon Dioxide	45
Chlorine present as Chloride	15	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	350
Nitrate Nitrogen	5.3	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	260
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.01	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.03	Oxygen Absorbed	0.2
Copper:	0.10	Residual Chlorine	Absent

Hardnes : Total 295 - Carbonate 260 Non-Carbonate 35

Metals: Iron, Zinc, Lead Absent

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of copper. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standards of organic quality and bacterial purity.

"These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses. The trace of copper present is presumably derived from a copper service pipe and will tend to cause green deposits, e.g., in the kettle and under any dripping taps."

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The town is served on a separate system. Foul sewage is gathered by tributory sewers and by means of gravity or through one of five pumping stations, and is discharged via the Mimram Valley Outfall Sewer to the Middle Lea Regional Works at Ryemeads.

Rivers and Streams

A portion of the River Mimram (approximately one mile) runs through the northern part of the district, and a portion of the River Lea (approximately half a mile) runs through the southern part of the district.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of one cottage, situated on the north-western boundary of the district, all the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system. There are no sewers in the vicinity of this cottage.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) House refuse is collected weekly in motor vehicles by the Council's staff. The refuse is taken to the tip at Cole Green owned by Inns and Co. Ltd.

(b) Street cleansing is carried out by mechanical sweepers supplemented by manual sweeping as necessary.

(c) Gully Cleansing:-

All gullies for which the Council are responsible are emptied and flushed three times a year by Contract Gully Cleansing Ltd. who have a contract with the Council for this purpose.

(d) Dustbins:-

The provision of galvanised iron dustbins is enforced under Section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council Act 1932. Notifications of defective bins are passed to the Health Department by the refuse collectors and the owner of the premises is required to provide the necessary replacement bin.

5. SHOPS

There are one hundred and seventy-two premises in the district in which the Health Department is responsible for enforcing part of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and/or the Shops Act, 1950.

Six hundred and thirty inspections of shops have been made during the year and the following is a summary of action taken:-

	Defects found	Defects remedied
Want of Cleanliness	8	8
Sanitary Defects	5	5
Infringements of Shops Act	21	21
Other nuisances or defects	11	11

45 notices were served and complied with.

Bacteriological examination of swabs taken from equipment and utensils showed the need for greater care in the cleansing and sterilising routines in some of the food premises.

Further swabs were taken - usually after a bactericidal detergent had been brought into use - and considerable improvement was found in each case.

6. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The total number of registered premises at the end of 1967 was two hundred and seventy, and these can be classified under the following headings:-

Offices	...	97
Retail Shops	...	141
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses		14
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens		17
Fuel Storage depots	...	1
Total number of employees	...	4,505

Five hundred and twenty-two visits were made during the year under this Act and one hundred and forty-two infringements of the Act were found:-

Inadequate first aid equipment		10
Inadequate washing facilities		3
Danger or obstruction	...	24
Heating, lighting or ventilation		24
Overcrowding	...	5
Lack of maintenance	...	49
Others	...	27

Twenty-three notifications of accidents were received during the year:-

Struck by falling object		3
Injury whilst using hand tools		1
Falls of persons	...	14
Striking against an object		2
Others	...	3

None of the accidents were fatal, but, where the condition of the premises or the equipment could have been a contributory factor, a visit was made and any necessary advice was given.

7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

(a) Number and nature of Inspections made during the year:-

Inspections of Factories (with mechanical power)	129
Inspections of Factories (without mechanical power)	-
Inspection of Licensed premises	28
Surveys and visits re Infested Areas (rats and mice)	596
Inspections of shops	630
Inspections re Insect Pests (excluding bed bugs)	207
Inspections of Schools	12
Visits to Public Health Laboratories ...	57
Inspections of Dwelling houses under Housing Acts	10
Special Inspections or Visits made re:	
Drainage	425
Infectious disease	91
Council Property (excluding houses) ...	10
Noise	126
Water Supply	16
Dustbins	24
Accumulations of refuse	31
Miscellaneous visits	80
Destruction of bed bugs	12

(b) Number of Informal Notices 94

(These notices were all complied with)

Complaints regarding noise nuisances arose from six different premises in the area during the year. Notices were served in two of the cases and the nuisances were abated. In three cases the work causing the nuisance was temporary in nature, and in the remaining case no justification for complaint was found.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT

Smoke observations made	...	111
Smoke nuisances or contraventions		15
Air Pollution observations	...	61
Air Pollution nuisances	...	5

9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Two houses were found to be infested during the year.

The necessary treatment was carried out in each case and the premises were checked and, if necessary, retreated until found to be completely free of bugs.

HOUSING

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	181
(b) Number of visits made for this purpose	292
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be fit or in which defects were found	48

In each case the necessary work was carried out following informal notice to the owner of the premises.

1. CONTROL OF FOOD

(a) MILK

(i) Biological Examinations

The County Council obtains samples of raw milk from Tuberculin Tested and non-designated herds and has them examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms was received during 1967.

(ii) Milk Sampling

Ninety-one samples of milk were obtained during the year for tests at the Hill End and Luton Laboratories. Four samples of pasteurised milk failed to satisfy the methylene blue test. Investigations into the causes of the failures were made and subsequent samples taken from the same source were satisfactory.

Type of milk samples	No. of samples taken
Pasteurised Milk	85
Sterilised Milk	6

With the exception of the four samples mentioned above, all the samples passed the prescribed tests.

(b) ICE CREAM AND SIMILAR PRODUCTS

The bacterial quality of ice cream has been checked throughout the year with the aid of routine sampling and laboratory examination. All the seventy-three samples taken satisfied the methylene blue reduction test.

Type of Ice Cream	Provisional Grade				
	1	2	3	4	Total
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		
Wrapped Brickettes	34	1	-	-	35
Wrapped Choc-bars	12	-	-	-	12
Ice Cream Lollies	21	-	-	-	21
Ice Cream Mixture	1	-	-	-	1
Soft or loose Ice Cream	4	-	-	-	4
	98½%	1½%	-	-	100%

(c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS, EXCLUDING MILK AND ICE CREAM

The amount of food voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1967 was 3,819 lbs., made up as follows:-

(i) Uncooked Food		lbs.
Meat	...	1,295
Fish	...	227
Poultry	...	254
Fruit	...	30
(ii) Frozen Foods (due to refrigerator breakdown)		
Vegetables	...	442
Fish	...	448
Meat	...	217
Fruit	...	6
Ice Cream	...	83
Poultry	...	225
(iii) Food in Containers		
Meat	...	95
Vegetables	...	15
Milk	...	3
Fruit	...	454
Miscellaneous	...	25

(d) LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS OF FOOD

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of food are carried out on behalf of the Council, as occasion requires, at:-

(1) Counties Public Health Laboratories,
Thresh House, Verulam Street,
Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

(2) Public Analyst,
20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3.

(3) Public Health Laboratory,
Luton and Dunstable Hospital,
Lewsey Road, Luton.

(4) Bacteriological examination only is carried out at:-

Hill End Laboratory,
Hill End Hospital, St. Albans.

Queen Elizabeth II Laboratory,
Welwyn Garden City.

(e) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The provisions of this Act, concerning adulteration, are administered by the County Council. Fifty samples of food or drugs in common use were obtained in Welwyn Garden City during the year by Sampling Officers of the County Council. The following list shows the results of the formal and informal samples obtained.

Sample		Analyst's Report
Whisky 71.1% proof	...	Genuine
Whisky 70.4% "	...	"
Gin 70.1% "	...	"
Milk (2 samples) Gerber Test	...	"
Milk C.I. (2 samples) " "	...	"
Milk Sterilized (1 sample) " "	...	"
Milk Homogenised(1 sample) " "	...	"
Vienna Sausage	...	"
Stewed Beef Steak	...	"
Stewing Steak with Gravy	...	"
" " " "	...	"
Cultured Buttermilk Drink, Fat free	...	"
Full fat Soft Cheese	...	"
" " " "	...	"
Cornish Pasty	...	"
" "	...	"
Pure Wheat Embryo	...	"
Raspberry Preserve	...	"
Scotch Whisky Flavoured Marmalade	...	"
Milk Chocolate Flavoured Cake Mix	...	"
Buttermilk Pancake & Waffle Mix	...	"Add Milk and Egg". This should be displayed on front panel.
Fruitarian Cake	...	Genuine
Vanilla Sugar	...	"
Grapefruit Fruit Frizz	...	"

Sample		Analyst's Report
Lemon Thyme	...	Genuine
Fennel	...	"
Chicken Vol-au-Vent	...	Meat 12% Mushroom 3% Unsuitable for Vol-au-vent
Chicken Vol-au-vent Filling	...	Genuine
" " " " "	...	"
Bread (Consumer complaint)	...	Mouldy - Cautioned
Grape Juice	...	Genuine
Beef Chow Mein	...	"
Fromage au Raisin	...	"
Pork Cutlets in Aspic	...	"
Beef Mince	...	"
Real Curry	...	"
Nutmeat	...	"
Chopped Chicken in Jelly	...	"
Cheese Spread	...	"
Rum & Butter Flavoured Toffees	...	"
Horse-radish	...	"
Date Sandwich Spread	...	"
Fecule de Pomme de Terre	...	Only in French. Illustration of iced gateau. Packs to be changed.
Cooking Butter	...	Genuine
Stewed Steak with Gravy	...	"
Full Fat Soft Cheese	...	"
Full Strength Liquer Chocolates	...	"
Brandies Pears	...	"

Samples taken:			
	Foodstuffs	:	41
	Milk	:	6
	Spirits	:	3
			Total : 50

(f) COMPLAINTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC CONCERNING FOOD

During 1967 thirty-three complaints were received alleging that food was not of the nature or quality demanded by the purchaser. One of these complaints was found to be without substance; the remaining cases were investigated and, where practicable, steps were taken which would prevent a repetition of the complaint.

(g) VISITS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING FOOD:

Visits to examine meat and other foods ...	82
Visits to procure samples of food (excluding milk)	61
Visits to procure samples of Milk ...	47
Visits re sale of Ice Cream ...	31
Visits to Mobile Vehicles selling Ice Cream	57
Visits to Mobile Vehicles selling other foods	19
Visits to Laboratories with samples of food	37

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, together with the amendment Regulations, came into force on the 1st January, 1967. These Regulations revoked or superseded corresponding requirements contained in the Food Hygiene Regulations in respect of stalls and vehicles, and set a higher standard of hygiene generally for this class of food handling.

2. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES (Where more than one principal trade is carried on at one shop, each such trade is separately recorded)

Trade	No. in Town	No. of visits made
Industrial Canteens	18	25
School Canteens	28	31
Cafes & Restaurants	12	40
Licensed Premises	16	18
Food Manufacturers	6	21
Butchers	19	87
Fishmongers	5	71
Grocers	18	281
Greengrocers	19	27
Confectioners	17	52
Miscellaneous Food Premises	7	11

Informal Notices : 112. These Notices were all complied with.

Satisfactory provisions have been made in all the food premises for hand washing and the washing of equipment to comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION OF FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Number of Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES with Mechanical Power	129	18	-
FACTORIES without Mechanical Power	-	-	-
OTHER PREMISES under the Act	-	-	-
Totals	129	18	--

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects Found (2)	Number of Defects Remedied (3)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (4)	No. of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted (5)
Sanitary Conveniences. S.7.				
Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	17	17	-	-
Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-
Totals	18	18	-	-

3. FACTORIES ACT, 1961

(a) Outworkers

The occupiers of three local factories distribute work to two hundred and forty-six local outworkers. The local outwork is carried out in satisfactory conditions and no cause for complaint has arisen during the year. In addition there are:-

2 local outworkers employed by a firm operating in Cheshunt
1 " " " " " " Edgware
2 " " " " " " Camden
1 " " " " " " Islington
1 " " " " " " Westminster

(b) Factories - General Information

The Factories Act, 1961, came into force on 1st April, 1962, and repealed the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.

All factories in the town are of modern construction and have been built during the past forty-five years. The construction of the first factory in the town was commenced in 1922 and after completion was, and still is, occupied by Dawnays Limited.

Health conditions are generally satisfactory and infringements are usually of a minor nature.

Plans for new factories or involving alteration of existing factories are examined by the Public Health Department before they are approved.

The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with Section 37 or 43 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Where the plans submitted did not comply, amendments were informally negotiated with the proposers and compliance secured. Where there was no legal authority to reject the plans, but the erection or alteration contained in the plans was likely to give rise to contraventions of other legislation, the proposers were informed so that the necessary work could be carried out before the premises were brought into use.

4. RODENT CONTROL

(a) Administration

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and a full time Rodent Operative and a General Assistant are employed.

(b) Rodent Destruction

As a result of complaints, minor infestations of rats and/or mice were found to be present on four hundred and one premises. Details of the type and infestation found are as follows:-

	No. of Premises	No. of Visits
Rats	361	3,212
Mice	39	422
Rats & Mice	1	10
Totals	401	3,644

The types of premises found to be infested are as follows:-

	Local Authority Property	Dwelling Houses	Business & Industrial Premises
No. of premises infested by Rats	7	309	46
No. of premises infested by Mice	-	24	16
No. of premises infested by Rats & Mice	-	-	1
	7	333	63

(c) Chargeable Work

All dwelling houses in the district are treated without charge but rodent destruction on commercial and industrial premises is chargeable either by contract or by private works order. In these cases the agreement of the occupier of such premises to the charge has to be obtained before any disinfestation is commenced. Twenty-five establishments in the district have negotiated thirty-two contracts with the Local Authority in respect of twenty-seven premises; the income from these was £215. In addition, the income from private works orders was £49. 4. 11d.

Details of visits made under contract and of infestations found are as follows:-

	No. of infestations found	No. of visits
Rat Contracts	66	761
Mouse Contracts	14	243
	80	1,004

During the year four hundred and eighty-one rodent infestations were discovered from all sources. Survey and treatment of undeveloped land on the outskirts of the town during September and October, when rats would be seeking winter harbourage and food, proved worthwhile, and did much to reduce the number of infestations during the winter months.

5. INSECT PESTS

The following table gives an analysis of the pests destroyed by the staff of the Public Health Department and the number of visits made by them to the infested premises for that purpose.

Pest	No. of premises affected	No. of Visits made
Wasps	271	313
Bees	11	17
Fleas	7	8
Flies	8	19
Bugs	2	3
Red Spiders	2	2
Beetles	4	4
Silver Fish	5	5
Maggots	1	1
Flying Ants	4	4
Woodworm	1	1
Caterpillars	2	2
Carpet Beetles	5	5
Gnats	3	3
Cockroaches	1	1
	327	388

In addition, insect powder was supplied free to occupiers where pressure of work or the circumstances of the particular case made personal attention either not possible or unnecessary.

One hundred and thirty-five occupiers were supplied with the free issue.

The Council has instructed that a charge of five shillings shall be made where treatment for ants is carried out by the staff of the Health Department.

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Public Health Inspector for 1967.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G.R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E.P. RIGBY, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

C.A. BAILEY, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

R.H. EDLIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

District Public Health Inspector:

R.G. MORGAN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector:

S. PARKINS

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative:

L.A. LAWRENCE

Clerks:

Mrs. J. BANKS

A.A.W. CALLABY

HATFIELD SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	21,914
Population (mid year 1967) estimated by the Registrar General	44,180
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1968	13,618
Rateable Value of the District, 31st March, 1968	£2,907,108
Product of a penny rate 1967/68	£11,710

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	190	187	377
LIVE BIRTHS			
Number	315	293	608
Rate per 1,000 population			13.8
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			6.4
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	8	6	14
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			22.5
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			622
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	3	3	6
INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			10
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			10.5
Illegitimate " " ' Illegitimate " "			-
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			4.9
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			3.3
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			25.7
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid 1967 was 44,180 compared with 43,940 at mid 1966. The natural increase of population, i.e. excess of births over deaths was 231 compared with 327 the previous year due mainly to the marked fall in the number of births.

Deaths

No major factor affected the death rate for the District over the year. The following table gives the main causes of death :-

	Male	Female	Total	Average past five years
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	-	1	2
Cancer, Malignant disease	39	34	73	62
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	32	56	88	71
Leukaemia	4	3	7	2
Heart Diseases	65	59	124	101
Other circulatory diseases	3	2	5	12
Pneumonia	5	12	17	13
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	15	7	22	18
Diabetes	1	-	1	1
Nephritis	-	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach etc.	2	1	3	3
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	1	1	2	2
Road Traffic and other accidents	10	3	13	11
Suicide	1	-	1	2
Other defined causes	11	8	19	25
	190	187	377	

Deaths from Cancer, Cerebral Vascular Accidents (strokes) and Heart Disease, the three principal causes of death were a little above the average of previous years. Deaths from road traffic accidents were three less than in the previous year. There were no maternal deaths during the year. Of the 124 deaths from Heart Disease, 40 were due to coronary thrombosis and angina.

Deaths from Cancer: Total 73

Respiratory tract	17	Alimentary tract and liver	20
Breast	15	Uterus	3
		Unclassified	18

The 17 deaths from lung cancer is noteworthy for this is now recognised as being largely due to excessive cigarette smoking and therefore preventable.

Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1963 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1967.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1963	19.5	0.91	17.7	8.7	1.23	10.2	29.2
1964	16.2	0.91	14.7	7.4	1.32	9.8	23.0
1965	17.4	0.91	15.8	7.6	1.25	9.5	9.3
1966	16.4	0.91	14.9	8.3	1.23	10.2	12.4
1967	13.8	0.91	12.6	8.5	1.16	9.9	10.
England and Wales 1967			17.2			11.2	18.3

After adjustment for inward and outward transferrable births a net total of 608 live births were registered in the District during the year, a decrease of 112 on the previous year. The adjusted birth rate of 12.6. reflects this fall.

The adjusted death rate of 9.9 per 1,000 of the population approximates closely to the average of previous years and compares favourably with the national rate.

Infant Mortality

A total of six infant deaths were registered during the year giving an infant mortality rate of 10, a very satisfactory figure. The causes of death were as follows :-

Age	Sex	Cause of death
1 day	M	Congenital heart defect
2 days	M	Respiratory distress syndrome
8 days	F	Aspiration pneumonia due to inhalation of vomit
4 months	F	Cystic disease of liver and adrenals
6 months	M	Acute entero-colitis
11 months	F	Adrenal failure due to acute infection

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received from medical practitioners during the year :-

Scarlet Fever	17	Pneumonia	1
Diphtheria	Nil	Poliomyelitis	Nil
Whooping Cough	18	Food Poisoning	Nil
Measles	765	Puerperal Pyrexia	6
Erysipelas	1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2

The biennial rise in Measles during the year was responsible for the majority of notifications received. While these were mainly mild infections without serious sequelae a few young children in Hatfield had acute severe illnesses with resulting bronchitis and throat infections. It is hoped that the next upsurge in measles cases during the winter of 1968 - 9 can be modified by the introduction of measles vaccination.

There were rather more scarlet fever cases in the town of Hatfield than in recent years, with one exception in children below six years of age and clinically mild infections.

No food poisoning outbreaks were reported during the year and the District remained virtually free from sonne dysentery and salmonella infections. No enteric or dysentery infection was reported among travellers returning from holidays on the Continent. The two infants with ophthalmia neonatorum in South Hatfield quickly recovered from their mild conjunctivitis which was not of a serious nature.

Once again I can report a year of complete freedom from major infectious diseases due to the high level of protection maintained by vaccination and immunization against smallpox, poliomyelitis and diphtheria.

Tuberculosis

Four new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified by the Chest Physicians giving an attack rate of .09 per 1,000 for the year. There was one death from this disease during the year.

Liaison with Dr. Edwards and the staff of the Chest Clinic at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital and St. Albans City Hospital continues to be satisfactory, and there is prompt follow-up and report on the home circumstances by Miss C.F. McMullen, Tuberculosis Health Visitor, when requested. The light mobile X-ray unit holds a session at the Queensway Health Centre each Tuesday afternoon for the examination of persons referred by Medical Practitioners.

A total of 443 children received B.C.G. vaccination by arrangements made by the school health service during the year. Following discussions between the County medical staff and the Chest Physicians working in Hertfordshire on the most appropriate age for B.C.G. vaccination it has been generally agreed to bring the age forward to the first year in attendance at secondary school. Upon the recommendation of the County Health Committee, the County Medical Officer has reinforced the requirements for chest X-ray of all persons seeking registration as child minders or in charge of nursery play groups.

Housing

In 1967, precisely 100 new dwellings, 60 general need and 40 for elderly persons, were added to the stock of Council properties, the eighth highest annual total in the 23 post-war years and the greatest number since 1956/57. The vacation of six houses in Clarkes Road to provide a site for a new local Police Station and the demolition of 12 Tarran prefabricated bungalows to make way for the redevelopment of Wrestlers Field, reduced the effective increase in Council dwellings by 18, making a net addition of 82 to the existing 2,461 - bringing the total to 2,543.

The new dwellings finished and let during the year included another 16 one-bedroomed flats and 8 houses to complete the Welham Green Scheme; 16 houses and 5 bungalows in Lemsford Village, a scheme envisaged for a long time and now brought to fruition - these being the only Council dwellings in the village; an infilling in Cecil Crescent; and 29 more houses and 6 new one-bedroomed flats in Comet Road on St. Albans Road back-land. Those schemes were all completed by mid-June and there was a few months lull until the end of September before the first of the Stockbreach Close dwellings became available of which 13 elderly persons flats and 6 houses were let by the end of the year.

The affect on the general need waiting list was to reduce to a 2 year wait the over 4 year wait applicable in the previous year, although no significant progress was made with the pensioners list since, in the main, the new one-bedroomed dwellings were used for the transfer of existing tenants from larger properties which were under -occupied, releasing those properties for further transfers to tenants needing larger dwellings or to applicants from the general need list. The waiting list had been reduced by some 50 applications. The development in Stockbreach Close was particularly welcomed, catering as it will for some 75 to 80 elderly persons in addition to families of varying sizes when the whole scheme is completed, together with the further flats and the bungalows for physicially handicapped persons to be completed on an adjoining site. The redevelopment of the site of the former aluminium bungalows on Birchwood was also begun during the year and a start was made on the road works for the development of Wrestlers Field.

With the Council's building programme gaining momentum, housing applicants could look forward in 1968 to a shorter waiting time on the list and the Council were also able, for the first time in many years, to agree to some relaxation of qualifications for transfer and to an allocation of dwellings for housing key workers employed at Hawker Siddeley Company.

The French Horn Lane scheme of the Commission for the New Towns provided 166 new dwellings during the year. The scheme is scheduled for completion in May 1968 and this will include a tower block of flats comprising 78 units.

The waiting period for applicants nominated under the Industrial Selection Scheme is approximately three months.

107 dwellings were let to Hatfield Rural District Council nominations during the year.

I am grateful to Mr. E.W. Pickering, Housing Manager of Hatfield R.D.C., and Mr. J.O. Restall, Housing Manager of the Commission for the New Towns for providing details of the housing progress during the year.

WATER:

Public Supply - Lee Valley Water Co.

There are very few dwellings remaining in the district which can now be connected to the public supply at a reasonable cost. In fact 99.5% are connected, the remaining 0.5% being dependant on private wells or bores in isolated areas - farms and estate cottages, etc. The number of dwellings in the district, including the expanding New Town, is approximately 13,200 and all but 44 are connected to public mains supply.

The fluoride content at the undermentioned pumping stations is as follows:-

Essendon, Hatfield and North Mymms = 0.2 milligrammes per litre
Northaw = 0.6 " " "

The Health Dept. submitted a sample of mains water to a public analyst for chemical analysis, this was reported as "possessing a high degree of organic purity and quite suitable for domestic purposes". The Water Company also submits numerous reports to the Health Department. In all cases quantity and quality was satisfactory.

Private Supplies

There remain 16 wells/boreholes in regular use for domestic purposes but 3 of these, although used by preference, are supplemented by mains supply for emergency only. Regular bacteriological samples are taken of well/borehole water where used for domestic purposes, and where considered necessary the addition of a hypochlorite is advised. One well, supplying 11 dwellings in a scattered community, via an underground reservoir, is automatically drip-fed, and another two are regularly dosed with a hypochlorite on the advice of the Health Dept.

Following is a summary of bacteriological samples taken during 1967:-

	No. of Wells, etc.	No. of Dwellings Served	No. of Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Astwick Manor	1	2	2	2	0
Coopers Green	2	6/1	8	6	2
North Mymms	4	11/5/2/1	12	10	2
Roe Hyde	3	5/1/1	13	12	1
Stanborough	2	1/1	5	5	0
Symondshyde	1	6	2	2	0
Lower Woodside	1	2	7	6	1
Mill Green	1	1	3	2	1
Lemsford	1	17	3	3	0
TOTAL	16	63	55	48	7

Of the 63 dwellings using private supplies, it would appear that only approximately 44 are wholly dependant on those sources. The resident population of the 63 dwellings is about 145.

In addition the bore/artesian well supply at the Lemsford Water Cress Beds are sampled during the season.

Cost of Connections to Main Supply

Efforts have been made to facilitate connections of some dwellings now supplied with well/borehole water to the main supply, but estimates of cost involved call for a cautionary approach. One such estimate was well in excess of £1,000 for connection of one dwelling to a main a few hundred yards away.

Under the Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961, the Local Authority may require such connection if satisfied that a wholesome water supply is not available in a house, but the owner cannot be required to contribute more than £60 towards the cost. For the isolated community of one or two houses, therefore, the Council commitment can be heavy.

Hand Pumps

Two handpumps are in use in isolated cottages on the extreme fringe of the district.

Standpipe Supply to Dwelling Houses

Two standpipes are still in use, one in each of the parishes of Hatfield and Northaw. The former will be discontinued when the properties (2) are improved, consequent to the community being sewered and the latter, one cottage, has already been condemned, the tenant awaiting rehousing by the Council.

The main supply to a frequently used Girl Guide Camp on a private estate was also sampled twice during the season.

Hatfield Swimming Pool

Thirty-two samples, 16 from each of the main and learners' pools were submitted to the laboratory and were reported satisfactory in respect of plate count, B.Coli., p.H., and free chlorine.

HOUSING:

Unfit Houses - Housing Act, 1957

There are no slum areas in the district, strictly within the meaning of the Act, but once again during the year under review a number of dwellings on the fringe of Northaw and Newgate Street were represented as unfit. In some cases it is known years before that certain properties are unfit and cannot be made fit at a reasonable cost, but where tenants are of an advanced age and do not wish to be disturbed it seems reasonable to await the proper time. In such cases I approach the owners and usually obtain a

written undertaking that in the event of the cottages becoming vacant, they will not be re-let, pending formal action by the Council. Such an incidence arose at Newgate Street during the year, where the tenant died aged 94 years.

Formal action was taken under the Housing Act in respect of the following:-

(a)	Houses Demolished (following representation in 1965)	=	3
	" " (" " in 1966)	=	1
(b)	Unfit Houses Represented as Unfit	=	5

Explanation of above:-

(a)	Nos. 1, 2, & 3 Virginia Cottages, Heath Road, Little Heath	=	3
	Hayes Farm Cottage, Coopers Lane, Northaw	=	1
(b)	Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4 Hayes Cottages, Coopers Lane, Northaw	=	4
	Ponsbourne Lodge, 71 Newgate Street Village	=	1

In addition, the Commission for the New Towns demolished a number of "Twilight" houses in the Old Town of Hatfield - at Batterdale, Great North Road and Lemsford Road, to make way for re-development.

Improvement Grants

Sixteen applications for Improvement Grants were approved during the year - 13 Discretionary and 3 Standard. Of these 8 were in respect of owner-occupied dwellings and 8 tenanted.

The average amount of grant reimbursed per dwelling was Standard £152 and Discretionary £287. This latter figure is lower than usual.

On completion of these improvements the following amenities will have been installed:-

Baths	14	W.C's (internal)	13
Food Stores	10	Wash Basins	12
Hot Water Systems	14		

Certificates of Disrepair - Rent Act, 1957

Three applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year. Two were approved, the one remaining being dealt with after the turn of the year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

The long awaited sewerage system for approximately 20 dwellings at Cromer Hyde is delaying improvements and modernisation to some sub-standard properties. The waste disposal in some instances is primitive, but for some years it has been accepted that improvements should await sewering.

The Council's Wild Hill sewage plant deals with only 10 houses, there is an urgent need for works to connect a further 20 - 25 houses.

Coopers Lane, between Northaw village and Potters Bar, also presents problems and should be connected to the existing Northaw sewerage scheme.

MEAT:

Inspection of Meat at Slaughterhouse

The one licensed slaughterhouse within the district, at White Lodge Farm, Bulls Lane, Bell Bar was visited regularly throughout the year. Every carcase and associated offal was inspected, necessitating 52 visits, the total kill being 573 pigs.

Unfortunately, from the public health inspectors' point of view, the great majority of examinations were made of necessity on Sundays, the exceptions being Mondays before 8.0 a.m. A fee of 9d. for each pig inspected is recovered by the Council by virtue of the Meat Inspection Regulations.

Following is a summary of condemnations of part carcases and offal:-

Number of Pigs Killed and Inspected	573
Tuberculosis only	
Whole carcases condemned	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	1
All Diseases other than Tuberculosis	
Whole carcases condemned	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	164

Reason for condemnation - including parts of offal

Livers - whole or part	- Spotted	28
	- Cirrhoses	3
Hearts	- Pericarditis, Adhesions	14
Lungs	- Pneumonia	37
	- Pleurisy	2
	- Congestion	75
	- Overstuck	2
Mesentery	- Tuberculosis	1
Fore Hock	- Arthritis	1
Top	- Adhesions	1
Trimmings	- Abscess	

POULTRY PROCESSING:

The poultry processing activities in the rural district are very small compared with the modern conception of this trade. There are no strictly "Factory" mechanical processing plants in the usual accepted sense, but nevertheless there are nine farms which between them dressed 1,473 capons and 2,035 turkeys during 1967. The vast majority of these were prepared for the Christmas Season.

All the premises were visited, and three of the larger ones were

improved by the fitting of sinks, hot water, etc. Surprisingly NO birds or organs were rejected as unfit.

Twenty-seven visits were made to these premises during the year.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING:

The following samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year and sent to the laboratory for Methylene Blue test:-

Place of Sampling	Satisfactory Provisional Grade (1)	Satisfactory Provisional Grade (2)	Unsatisfactory Provisional Grade (3)	Unsatisfactory Provisional Grade (4)	Total
Vehicles	7	2	-	1	10
Shops	13	-	-	-	13
Hotels and Cafes	7	2	1	1	11
	27	4	1	2	34

Grades 1 & 2 are regarded as Satisfactory. Grades 3 & 4 as Unsatisfactory.

91.2% of the samples submitted to the laboratory were therefore satisfactory.

MISCELLANEOUS FOOD SAMPLES:

As a routine check, fifty-three samples of various foodstuffs were sent to the laboratory for identification of possible food poisoning organisms, an exercise which is encouraged by the Ministry Public Health Laboratory. Among the foods examined were Corned Beef, Ham, Luncheon Meat, Tongue, Liver Sausage, Winkles, Whelks, Black Pudding, Cream, Pork and Lamb.

Also included were 13 pet foods, including horsemeat. Pet Foods are possibly more prone to careless preparation and handling and when these are put into the same shopping bag, the same refrigeration, and cut up with the same household knife as is used for human food, cross infection is of course a real possibility.

However, all fifty-three samples were reported as negative for the three main types of food poisoning organisms.

FOOD CONDEMNED AT SHOPS, STORES, WAREHOUSES, FISH DEPOTS, ETC., AND MEAT OTHER THAN AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE:

	lbs.		lbs.
Frozen Foods	961	Fruit & Vegetables	940
Wet Fish	156	Meat	3,706
Meat - Canned & Cooked	173	Poultry	1,434
Fruit Juices	64	Other Foods Various	9

The items of Meat, Poultry and Frozen Foods condemned as unfit were due, in the main, to mechanical breakdowns in cold stores and deep freeze cabinets, the holding capacity of which in some cases is now considerable. In such cases differentiation between fit and unfit foodstuffs has to be decided by the public health inspectors and certificates issued for the Insurance Companies.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Category of Premises	No.	No. of Premises Fitted to Comply with Reg.16	No. of Premises to which Reg.19 Applies	No. of Premises Fitted to Comply with Reg.19
Factory Canteens	17	17	17	17
School Canteens	36	36	36	36
Cafes & Restaurants	35	35	35	35
Transport Cafes	6	6	6	6
Private Clubs	16	16	16	16
Bakehouses	3	3	3	3
Bakers Shops	9	9	9	9
Butchers	21	21	21	21
Fishmongers	7	7	7	7
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	22	22	22	22
Grocers	41	41	41	41
Confectioners	29	28	28	28
Licensed Premises	38	38	38	38
	280	279	279	279

NOTE: Regulation 16 refers to provision of wash-basin with hot and cold water supply.

Regulation 19 refers to provision of sink or other facility with hot and cold water supply.

NUISANCES ABATED : CONTRAVENTIONS AND DEFECTS REMEDIED

Houses		Total
Roofs Renewed or Repaired	18	
Chimney Stacks Rebuilt or Repaired	16	
Rainwater Gutters/Pipes Renewed/Repaired	13	
Walls Repointed or Rendered	21	
Wall or Ceiling Plaster Renewed/Repaired	11	
Floors Renewed/Repaired	5	
Windows or Doors Renewed/Repaired	11	
Fireplaces Renewed/Repaired	1	
Stairs Renewed/Repaired : Rails Fixed	4	
Sub-floor Ventilation Provided	4	
Dampness Abated	24	
Additional Lighting Provided	7	
Additional Ventilation Provided	6	
Foodstores Provided or Repaired	9	150
Sanitary Fittings etc.		
Sinks Provided or Replaced	10	
Baths & Basins Provided/Replaced	10	
Hot Water Supplies Provided	20	
New W.C. Compartments	5	
Renewal/Repairs to W.C's	1	
Pailclosets Abolished	1	
Drains Constructed/Repaired	3	
Drains Connected to Sewer	1	
Drains Cleared	29	
Drains Tested	34	
Cesspools Constructed/Repaired	2	
Offensive Accumulations Removed	6	
Animals - Nuisance Abated	2	
Overcrowding Abated	1	125

INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA:

The following is a summary of the visits made by the public health inspectors during the year:-

Public Health Acts		Total
Complaints	170	
Housing	128	
Infectious Disease	63	
Visits to Path Lab.	69	
Water Supplies	147	

Public Health Acts continued		Total
Drainage/Sewerage	436	
Refuse	32	
Cesspools/Septic Tanks	167	
Insect Infestation	200	
Rodent Control	179	
Agricultural Premises	58	
Swimming Pools	27	
Noise Abatement	6	
Animal Boarding Establishments	11	
Long Stay Immigrants	10	
Health Education	2	
Poultry Establishments	27	
Sundry Nuisances	129	1,861
Housing Acts		
Housing Inspections	294	
Houses Let in Lodgings	9	
Houses in Multiple Occupation	3	
Overcrowding	2	
Improvement Grants	161	
Rent Act	48	
Licensed Caravan Sites	108	
Gypsy Caravans	89	714
Food & Drugs Act		
Slaughterhouses	61	
Food Inspection	89	
Food Complaints	66	
Food Shops	483	
Swabs	66	
Food Warehouses	9	
Cafes & Restaurants	177	
Licensed Premises	121	
Transport Cafes	76	
Factory & School Canteens	76	
Market Food Stalls	402	
Pet Animals	80	
Mobile Shops	85	
Watercress Beds	9	
Food Samples	49	1,849
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act		
General Inspections	162	
Other Inspections	321	483

Clean Air Act		Total
Volumetric Recordings	469	
Smoke Observations	52	
Boiler Plant Inspection	22	543
Factories Act		
Power Factories	118	
Non-Power Factories	2	120
Miscellaneous		
Radioactive Waste	4	4

GENERAL

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Following is a summary of duties carried out under the above Act:-

Number of Factories on Register	117
Number of Inspections Made	118
Number of Notices Served as a Result of Notifications from H.M. Inspector of Factories	1
Number of Defects Remedied	8

Defects Found

Want of Cleanliness	6
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	3
Unsuitable Sanitary Conveniences	1
Other Offences Against the Act	1

Factories

*With Mechanical Power where Section 7 enforced	116
Without Mechanical Power	1

*Note - Section 7 refers to provision of Sanitary Conveniences and although primarily the responsibility of H.M. Inspector of Factories, such matters must be referred to the Local Authority.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963:

Following are details of information as submitted to the Ministry of Labour by way of Annual Report for 1967. These figures do not include railway premises, schools, crown premises, municipal offices and offices in factories, which are the responsibility of H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Registrations and General Inspections

	Number of Premises Registered During the Year	Total Number of Registered Premises at End of Year	Number of Registered Premises Receiving a General Inspection During the Year
Offices	8	93	42
Retail Shops	3	196	90
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	2	9	3
Catering Establishments open to Public, Canteens	1	44	26
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	1
TOTALS	14	343	162

Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises 483

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	644
Retail Shops	975
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	143
Catering Establishments open to Public	351
Canteens	17
Fuel Storage Depots	2
TOTAL	2,132
TOTAL MALES	959
TOTAL FEMALES	1,173

Number of Exemption Applications Received 1
Number of Exemption Applications Granted 1

Number of Extension of Exemption Applications Received 2
Number of Extension of Exemption Applications Granted 2

Number of Exemption Certificates Cancelled 1

Exemption and Extension to Exemptions were granted for Sanitary Conveniences or Running Water or both. In one case alternative premises are being sought, and another concerns proposed re-development of the existing site.

Reported Accidents Investigated ..... Warehouse 1

Number of Informal Notices Served 20
Number of Informal Notices Complied With 36

RODENT CONTROL:

As will be seen from the summary below, rodent infestations within the district increased during 1967 compared with previous years. This appears to be consistent with other districts in the Eastern Region and is possibly due in some measure to greater publicity given to the problem. Mr. Lawrence the Council's rodent officer has been extremely busy and has done an excellent job, not only in this direction but also with other pests and wasps nests in particular.

The number of farms and incidental premises treated on a contractual basis remains fairly constant. Treatments were carried out monthly at thirty-nine such premises, the money received by the Council being £453 p.a. Casual treatments at business premises are carried out as and when requested, at a charge, the value of these approximated £60 p.a. No charge is made for visits to dwellings.

Following is a brief summary of treatments carried out:-

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	Business etc.	Total
Properties found to be RAT infested	6	451	38	67	562
Properties found to be MOUSE infested	-	19	37	6	62

The above refer to properties only, all of which were visited at least twice. The farms were visited each month totalling approximately 450 per annum. The total number of visits, including re-visits and treatments at adjacent properties therefore was well in excess of 2,000.

INSECT PESTS:

The following pest complaints were also dealt with during the year:-

Woodworm	35	Bed Bugs	2
Ants	16	Cockroaches	4
Fleas	3	Bees (wild)	2
Wasps Nests	131	Silver Fish	2
Cluster Flies	4	Blackbeetles	1

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

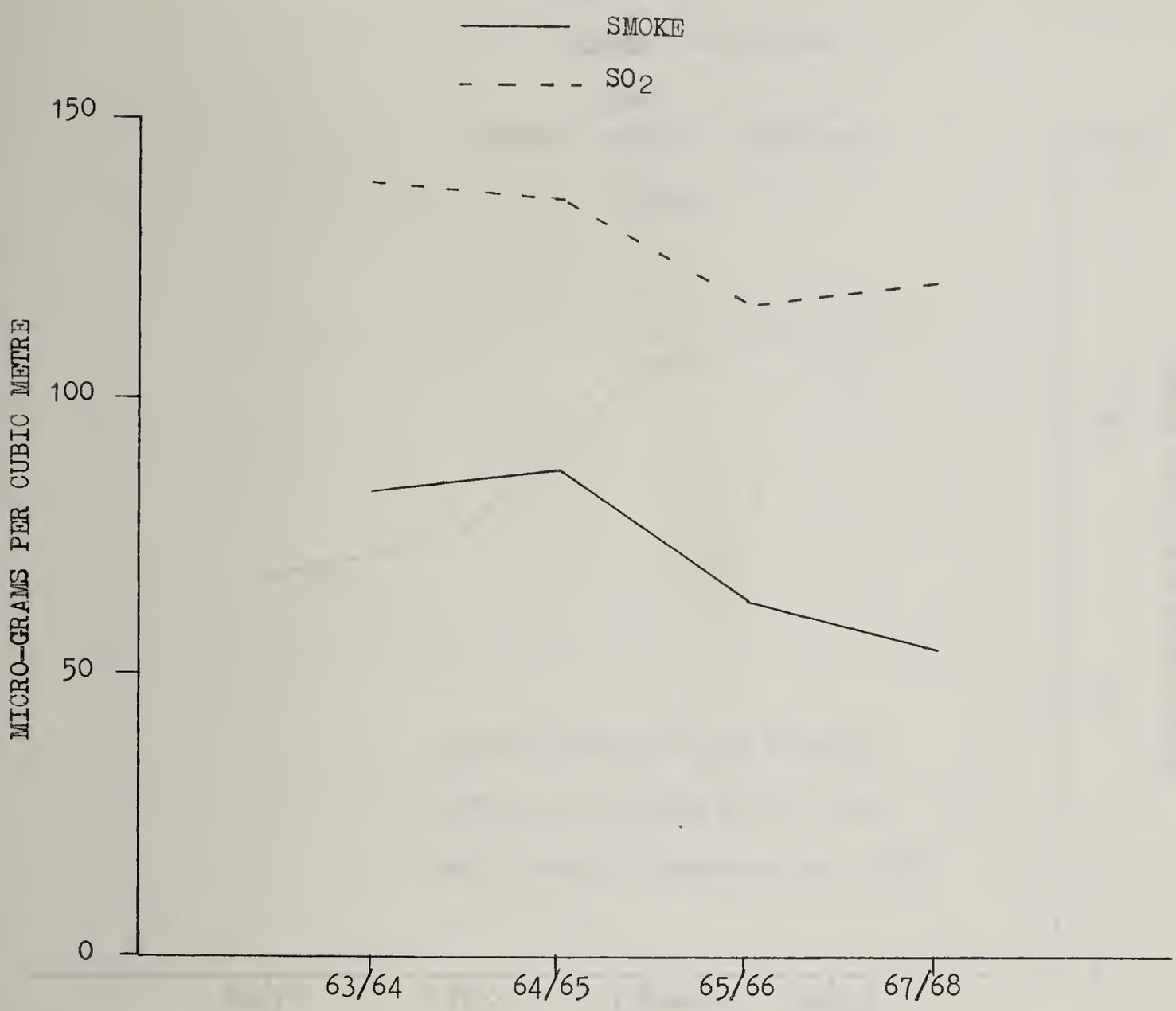
During the last two years, daily concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide have been measured during the winter periods only (i.e. October to March inclusive.) The Ministry of Technology indicated that for this type of area concentrations during the summer showed little variation.

The graphs show the average winter concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide for the last four winters, and once again it is evident there is a marked increase in the use of smokeless fuel as shown by the downward trend of smoke concentrations. The decrease in concentrations of sulphur dioxide is much less marked and in fact increased slightly last winter. This is due to the fact that the sulphur content of smokeless fuels is little lower than that of other fuels. Conversion to domestic electrical heating would, of course, solve this problem.

Weather conditions have a marked influence on smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations. During the last few years the formation of fog has not been a major problem but in the event of fog forming for any length of time then the concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide for a winter period would inevitably rise.

BRIARS LANE INFANTS SCHOOL - SITE NO.1

WINTER AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE 1963 - 68



MONTHLY WINTER AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE 1967/68

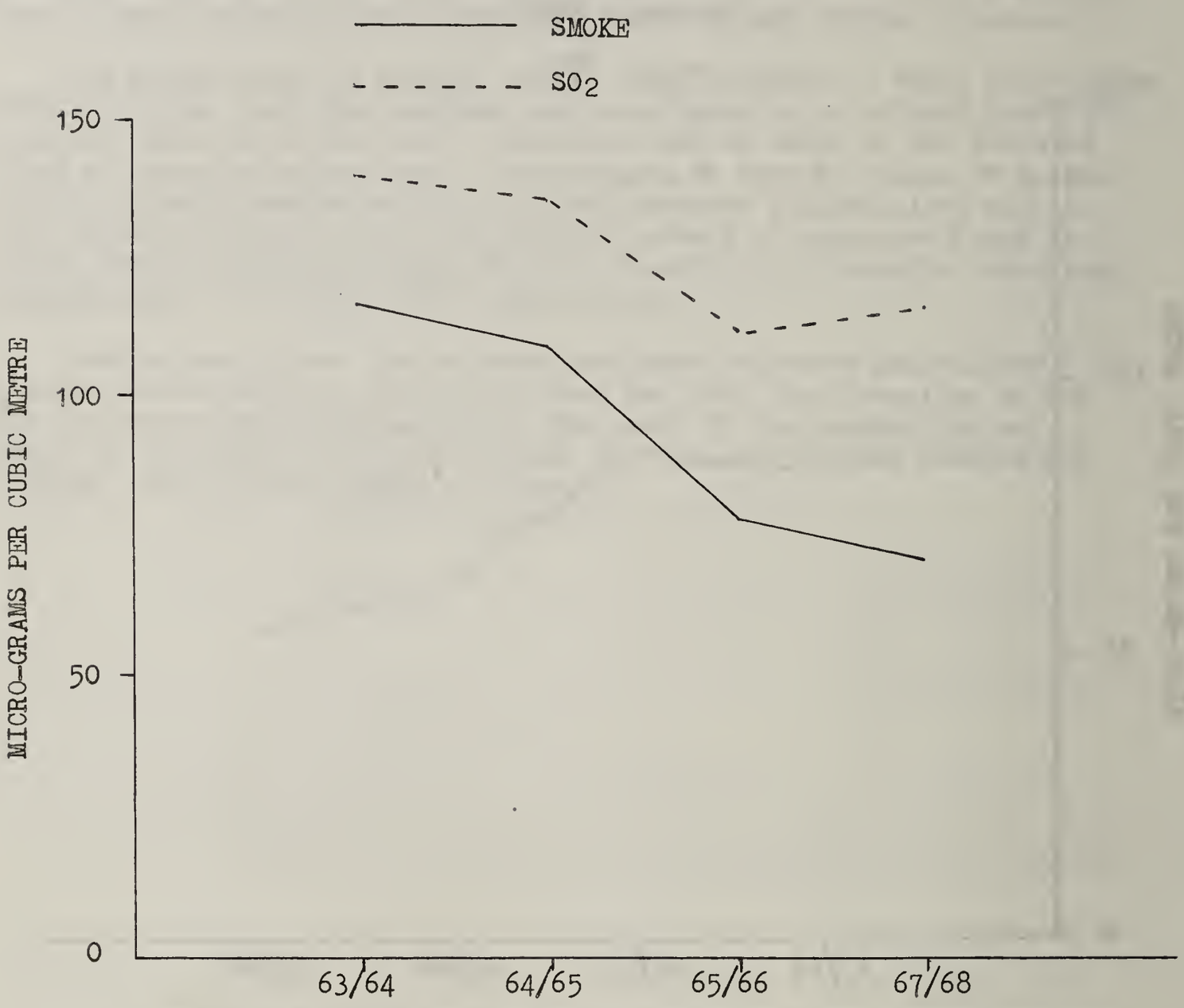
1967 /68	SMOKE			SO_2			SMOKE /SO_2 RATIO
	Month Average	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	Month Average	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	
OCT	25	51	7	72	166	32	.35
NOV	72	258	21	134	270	74	.53
DEC	93	223	39	177	310	64	.52
JAN	69	161	20	148	413	70	.46
FEB	57	158	15	122	262	45	.47
MAR	34	74	7	77	156	39	.44

Figures in micro-grams per cubic metre

Winter Average SMOKE = 58 microgrammes/cu.metre
Winter Average SO_2 = 122 microgrammes/cu.metre

ST. MICHAELS, BIRCHWOOD - SITE NO.2

WINTER AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE 1963 - 68



MONTHLY WINTER AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE 1967/68

1967 /68	SMOKE			SO_2			SMOKE /SO_2 RATIO
	Month Average	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	Month Average	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	
OCT	37	78	16	70	135	48	.53
NOV	122	348	60	144	261	83	.91
DEC	103	239	35	158	266	82	.65
JAN	80	170	11	156	226	82	.51
FEB	70	155	29	119	180	51	.59
MAR	43	84	11	81	138	45	.53

Figures in micro-grams per cubic metre

Winter Average SMOKE = 76 microgrammes/cu.metre
Winter Average SO_2 = 121 microgrammes/cu.metre

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Public Health Inspector for 1967

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G.R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E.P. RIGBY, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

P.B. HAWLEY, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

D.N. SIBLEY, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk:

A.A.W. CALLABY

WELWYN SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	5,232
Population (mid year 1967) estimated by the Registrar General	7,640
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1968	2,481
Rateable Value of the District, 31st March, 1968.	£355,100
Net product of a penny rate 1967/68	£1,434

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	39	29	68
LIVE BIRTHS			
Number	65	46	111
Rate per 1,000 population			14.5
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			2.7
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	-	3	3
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			26.3
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	65	49	114
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	2	-	2
INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			8.9
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			18.5
Illegitimate " " " Illegitimate " "			Nil
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			8.9
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			8.9
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			43.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid 1967 was 7,640 compared with 7,490 at mid 1966. The natural increase of population, i.e. excess of births over deaths was 46 compared with 43 in the previous year.

Deaths

There was a total of 68 deaths in the District compared with 62 during the previous year. Considerable fluctuation in the annual totals occur when comparing relatively small numbers. However as in the previous year deaths from cancer and cerebral vascular accidents (strokes) were above the average of the past five years. Six of the seventeen deaths from Heart Disease were due to Coronary Thrombosis. There were no deaths from tuberculosis or in childbirth. The following table gives the main causes :-

	Male	Female	Total	Average past five years
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Cancer, Malignant disease	7	6	13	10
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	7	8	15	11
Heart Diseases	10	7	17	20
Other circulatory diseases	1	2	3	4
Leukaemia	2	-	2	-
Pneumonia	2	1	3	3
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	-	-	-	2
Ulcer of Stomach, etc.	2	-	2	-
Congenital Malformation	2	-	2	-
Nephritis	2	2	4	-
Road Traffic and Other Accidents	2	1	3	2
Suicide	-	-	-	-
Other defined causes	2	2	4	6
	39	29	68	

Deaths from Cancer: Total 13

Respiratory	2	Breast	1
Alimentary tract and liver	5	Uterus	1
Unclassified	4		

Comparison of Annual Rates

The following tables shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1963, with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1967.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1963	19.5	0.93	18.1	7.1	1.21	8.6	7.2
1964	19.0	0.93	17.7	8.4	1.21	10.2	7.2
1965	17.9	0.93	17.5	8.2	1.10	9.0	15.1
1966	14.0	0.93	13.0	8.3	1.12	9.3	-
1967	14.5	0.93	13.5	8.9	1.16	10.3	8.9
England and Wales 1967			17.2			11.2	18.3

There were 111 live births during the year compared with 105 during the previous year, the adjusted birth rate 13.5 being about the same as for Welwyn Garden City.

The adjusted death rate of 10.3 is a little above the average of previous years due to a few more deaths of elderly people from cerebral strokes.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Apart from the biennial surge in measles during the first half of the year, only one notification relating to puerperal pyrexia was received throughout the year.

Measles	215	Puerperal Pyrexia	1

One or two mild gastro enteritis cases were investigated by the department, but no dysentery or salmonella infection found. I am pleased to report a further year of freedom from major infectious disease, diphtheria, poliomyelitis and enteric infections, and there were no outbreaks of food poisoning. No case of infectious jaundice occurred.

With the closure of the Isolation Ward at Spittlesea Hospital, Luton, infectious cases needing hospital care are admitted to St. Stephen's Ward, St. Albans City Hospital.

Tuberculosis

The Chest Physician notified one new case of pulmonary tuberculosis, a total of 41 remaining on the register under supervision at the end of the year.

The Chest Clinics at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Welwyn Garden City, and the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, undertake the treatment of patients in Welwyn and the southern part of the District, while patients from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the Home Nurses, and I am again grateful to Miss C.F. McMullen for advice on the domiciliary care of patients needing the support of the social services.

There was a good acceptance rate for the annual B.C.G. vaccination of 13 year old school children in the Spring when 48 pupils received the protecting inoculation. In recent years the British freeze dried vaccine has been used which produces a milder reaction than the imported vaccine and is more readily accepted in the schools.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY:

The water supply to the Rural District provided by the Lee Valley Water Company has throughout the year been completely satisfactory, and no complaints have been received at my office.

The 7th Annual Report of the Lee Valley Water Company for the year ended 31st March 1967 sets out a long list of capital works which have been carried out and/or planned, in order to improve the water supplies throughout the area, and a number of these have a direct bearing on supply conditions in Welwyn Rural.

A 6,000,000 gallon reinforced concrete covered reservoir at Bulls Green is now complete and this is served by a 36" diameter trunk main from Sundon. A new 36" trunk main from Sundon to Knebworth is planned, which will link with the Knebworth to Brookmans Park trunk main, to bring water from Grafham Water to the west side of the Company's area.

Work is also proceeding on a 6,000,000 gallon reinforced concrete covered reservoir at Poynders End, near Preston, which will provide part of the essential storage for water which will be taken from the Great Ouse Water Authority through Grafham Water reservoir.

Of more immediate interest is the proposal to lay a 9" diameter main from Sherrardswood reservoir in Welwyn Garden City, complete with booster station, to Greggs Wood water tower, in order to assist with the very heavy demand which has been placed on the School Lane well.

These works will assure Welwyn Rural of continuity of effective supply for some years to come.

The established practice of sampling and analysing water throughout the whole distribution system within the Rural District has been maintained and of the 270 bacteriological and 13 chemical samples taken within the Rural District, all conformed to standards of purity considered suitable for public supply.

Once more I would draw attention to the 7th Annual Report of the Lee Valley Water Company, which shows the tremendous amount of not only capital work done but routine work on investigating complaints, repairs, and general care of the water system carried out during the year on your behalf.

SEWERAGE:

There has been no capital work carried out for sewerage during the year the subject of this Report. There has been a good response to the new schemes of sewerage provided by the Rural Council, and so far 501 properties have been connected to the new systems.

Due to pressure of work it has not been possible to make much progress in the matter of having surface water taken out of the old sewers, but it is hoped during the coming months to make better progress in this matter.

The cesspool service operated by the Council is still continued and maintained satisfactorily. The anticipated drop in the number of services prophesied last year has now materialised, and I set out below the number of services given over the last 12 years, and members will note the big reduction to 345 for the year 1967.

Year		Services given.
1956	....	819
1957	....	932
1958	....	1023
1959	....	1025
1960	....	1101
1961	....	1166
1962	....	1165
1963	....	1089
1964	....	1100
1965	....	891
1966	....	962
1967	....	345

RAINFALL:

Readings for rainfall are taken at the Rural District Council's weather station, By-Pass Road, Welwyn. There was a measurable fall of rain on 148 days during the year, yielding a total of 24.36". The heaviest fall was recorded on the 16th October 1967, and was 1.17". The wettest month was August, with a fall of 4.4" and the driest month was March with a fall of .47". Rainfall for 1966 was 31.78".

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

The collection service has continued satisfactorily during the year, with a weekly service to all our properties.

The public are making good use of the Council's free special refuse collection service, and this should, in future years, tend to reduce irresponsible dumping by the public. However, irresponsible dumping is still a problem, and my department exercises all possible vigilance in this matter.

The quantity of paper contained in domestic refuse is reaching serious proportions, and I am bound to say that as the years go by I feel we shall be compelled, not merely as a Rural District, but as a regional matter, to consider methods of either breaking down or burning the combustible content of the refuse. The provision of central incineration plants imposes difficulties because of the long haul from the Rural District to the central station, but nevertheless I think this will have to be faced in the not too distant future.

RODENT CONTROL - PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 1967.

	Hours worked.	No. of premises Inspected.	Serviced.	No. of visits made.
Local Authority refuse tips and other surf.props.	40	19	14	50
Private dwellings.	213¾	249	130	323
Business premises.	2¼	8	1	9
Agricultural premises.	¾	1	-	1
TOTALS	256¾	277	145	383

Time spent on vehicle maintenance, receiving instructions, reporting on visits, baiting, etc. 25 hours.

Petrol used: 30 gallons.

Operator ill from 12.1.67 until 1.5.67.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:

Standard Grants were approved in five instances during the year, covering a total of £580. In two cases grant recipients were owner/occupiers of the properties concerned, and the other three recipients were owners who had recently acquired existing property but who had not then commenced occupation.

It is regrettable that a considerable amount of department time is spent in discussing grant details with prospective purchasers of property, who do not in fact proceed to contract stage. One of the above properties was the subject of four different grant interviews and discussions.

No tenanted properties were the subject of grant approvals during the year.

There were no Discretionary Grants approved during 1967.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963:

The position has not changed much since last year, the latest figures showing that in the Rural District there are registered 17 offices, 25 retail shops, and 13 catering establishments open to the public, including canteens. The premises were all visited during the year.

On the analysis of persons employed in registered premises I have to report the following figures:-

Offices:	440	persons	employed.
Retail shops:	72	"	"
Catering establishments:	54	"	"
Canteens:	22	"	"
Total:	588	"	"

Divided into 288 male and 300 female.

HOUSING:

A total of 57 houses were completed by private enterprise and 129 houses were under construction at the end of the year.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT:

There have been no changes during the year in the staff establishment, and the usual emphasis on public relations work has been maintained.

Miscellaneous public health visits carried out by the staff during the year are detailed below.

Housing defects (not Council Houses)	12
Canteens	9
Foodstuffs	30
Cafes	6
Cesspools	53
Trade Effluent	10
Moveable dwellings	29
Statutory nuisances	6
Slaughterhouses	Nil
Bakeries	6
Factories	20
Improvement Grants	42
Building Regulations	1848
Rodent Control	383

It will be noted that the Building Regulations figure is very high, and of course, this is brought about by the new requirements under the Regulations

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION:

The district is still without a slaughterhouse; all fresh and frozen meat is brought into the district and presumed inspected at source.

The following food was surrendered at retail shops in the district during the year, for the reasons stated:-

19 lbs ox tails - decomposition.
43 lbs ox cheek - decomposition.
36 lbs leg of lamb - tainted.
6 lbs corned beef - defective can.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - WELWYN GARDEN CITY U.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	133	129	18	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority(Excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	133	129	18	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	17	17	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-	-
Total	18	18	-	-	-

3. OUTWORKERS

Making wearing apparel 246

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - HATFIELD R.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	116	117	11	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	117	118	11	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which Defects were found: Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness	6	6	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	3	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable	1	1	-	1	-
Other offences	1	1	-	-	-
Total	11	8	-	1	-

3. OUTWORKERS

Making wearing apparel 8

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - WELWYN R.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	23	25	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl. out-workers' premises)	23	34	-	-
Total	46	59	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

3. OUTWORKERS N I L

The major administrative change during the year was the setting up of the Divisional Health and Welfare Executive which held its inaugural meeting on 10th July, 1967. The Executive will meet at three monthly intervals to direct the services which have been delegated by the County Health and Welfare Committee and will undoubtedly encourage local interest and participation in the operation of these services. The local administration of the delegated functions, many of which were previously dealt with at County level has largely been transferred to the Divisional staff. No practical difficulties have been experienced in the transfer of these services and it is hoped that the change will result in a more direct and personal application of the combined health and welfare services.

Staff

In general the staffing position has been steadier than in previous years although there is still difficulty in recruiting domestic help in Potters Bar and temporary shortage of health visitors and district nurses from time to time. Opportunity was taken throughout the year to build up the Social Work team at Parkway where Mr. Jones, Divisional Social Worker, has already given a most stimulating lead. The establishment of four full time medical officers in addition to the Divisional Medical Officer is adequate as very competent married women doctors are engaged for cytology sessions and relief duties. An improvement in the nursing service results from the appointment of a State Enrolled Nurse which has enabled us to provide night nursing service for cases in need, particularly for the nursing of terminal cases. In addition, the services of a male district nurse who is shared with the St. Albans Division have been greatly appreciated for several home nursing cases in the division.

Midwifery and District Nursing

The number of domiciliary deliveries has again fallen slightly and there was a small increase in the number of women discharged from hospital within forty-eight hours of delivery.

	1966	1967
No. of discharges within 48 hours	154	165
No. visited discharged after 48 hours	618	484
No. of visits to the above	2876	2932
No. of domiciliary deliveries	363	355

In October 1967 after discussion with the obstetric staff of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital and Dr. Hugh Jones it was agreed that district midwives should no longer be called upon to visit normal babies with adherent umbilical cords discharged from hospital with their mothers at ten days. It was agreed that in such cases the hospital would provide the mother with a supply of antiseptic powder which she could apply herself, and that it would be left to the health visitor to inspect the umbilicus as usual at her first visit. The new procedure has been found to work satisfactorily.

Health Visiting

The following table giving details of the number of home visits made by health visitors throughout the year shows an increase in the number of visits to the aged and special cases with a slight decrease in the number of home visits to children under five years of age.

	1966	1967
Home visits to children under 5 years	24366	21941
Aged		
1st visits to persons over 65 years	313	387
Revisits to persons over 65 years	621	774
Mental Health		
Mentally disordered 1st visits	80	89
Mentally disordered re visits	82	245
Social Problems		
1st visits	240	363
Re visits	833	1013

Cervical Cytology

The setting up of the cytology laboratory at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in the summer permitted the extension of the cervical cytology service to the main centres of population in the division. Weekly "Well Woman" clinics were inaugurated at Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield and Potters Bar, staffed by experienced women medical officers, assisted by a midwife and receptionist. In addition to the facilities for the cervical cytology test the opportunity was taken to exclude the presence of breast tumour by palpation and to carry out urine examination. This service supplements similar facilities provided at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital and by general practitioners. A considerable waiting list had accumulated at each centre but by the end of the year the waiting time had been reduced at Hatfield and Potters Bar, and extra sessions at Welwyn Garden City had kept the number of women waiting for the test there within reasonable limits.

Attachment of Nursing and Health Visiting Staff

Following application by doctors forming one of the major practitioner groups in Potters Bar for the integration of the local authority nursing staff with their services in new group practice premises, discussions were held with the group and with the other doctors practising in the area, and a comprehensive scheme for linking the work of the home nurses, midwives and health visitors was launched. The new arrangement has been well received particularly by the two main practitioner groups and the district nursing staff and I am grateful to Miss King, County Nursing Officer, who assisted at the preliminary discussions.

Social Work Unit

Mr. Jones has been active in directing the work of the social work staff since taking up his post as Divisional Social Worker. Sound relationships have been established with the medical practitioners, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital and Cell Barnes Hospital, local government departments and voluntary agencies covering a very broad and varied pattern of casework providing support and supervision for the handicapped. In spite of some difficulty in finding adequate room for the team at Parkway and some changes in the staff, much has been achieved during the year. A special effort to effect a better liaison with the work of the voluntary agencies for the elderly has resulted in closer coordination with the local health authority services.

Adult Training Centre

Mr. Vickerstaff has been successful in obtaining a wider range of practical work for the trainees at the Centre from local firms and through the cooperation of the Principal of the Sherrards Training Centre for Spastics. It is hoped that this will enable a number of the trainees to acquire confidence in light manual skills leading to trials of employment by local firms and eventually full remunerative employment in the area.

Nurseries and Child Minders

The supervision of private nurseries and child minders has been carefully undertaken throughout the year and five applications were approved for the registration of premises for use as morning nurseries, providing 105 additional places. Four of the existing nurseries applied for an increase in the number of children taken providing an additional thirty-three places while fifteen more women were registered for child minding of small groups in their own homes. The continued expansion of these child minder facilities meets a very real need throughout the area.

Home Help Service

The expansion of the Home Help Service in Mid Hertfordshire continues although restricted by the difficulty in recruiting suitable women for this work particularly in Potters Bar and Welwyn.

Number of Home Helps employed 29.12.67, part-time - 89
Number of Good Neighbours employed 29.12.67, part-time - 1

	Home Helps	Good Neighbours
Current Case Loads	454	1
Turnover of Cases, 1967	1,132	6
Number of New Cases, 1967	374	3

Classification of current cases	Home Helps	Good Neighbours
Chronic cases	402	
Acute cases	6	
Tuberculosis cases	2	
Maternity cases	9	
Mental Health cases	2	
Miscellaneous cases	14	
Number of Old Age Pensioners included in above	-	370

Family Planning

The National Health Service (Family Planning) Act came into operation in June 1967. The Act conferred on local health authorities a general power to make arrangements for the giving of advice on contraception, the medical examination of persons seeking contraceptive advice, and the supply of contraceptive substances and appliances. The new Act went beyond the existing powers under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act 1946 as it empowered authorities to provide this service on social as well as medical grounds. The new Act recommended that advice, examinations, prescriptions and supplies should be given free in medical cases but a charge should be made for non medical cases. No distinction is drawn between the married and the unmarried and no limitation upon the age for which such services can be provided. The County Council have decided for the time being to continue to use the services of the Family Planning Association and similar bodies instead of running the service directly and to give full support to these organisations in the development of the service particularly in providing accommodation in clinic premises and publicity.

Attendances at the Family Planning sessions at Gooseacre, Welwyn Garden City and Queensway Health Centre, Hatfield have been well maintained, additional sessions being arranged in each town for consultation and advice regarding the intra-uterine contraceptive device or the contraceptive pill. The additional weekly session introduced at the Viaduct Health Centre for the north-west area of Welwyn Garden City and Welwyn is well attended. Attendances at Wednesday evening sessions at Cranborne Clinic, Potters Bar, introduced by the Family Planning Association last year soon shewed that an additional session on Friday mornings was required.

The family planning service is particularly concerned with the welfare of large families in homes where the deterioration in living standards is closely related to the number of children in the family. Integration with the other community services contributes to the dispersal of ignorance and fear and to the increase of happy family life, and will also relieve the burdens placed on other local authority services by the physical ill health and mental distress which so frequently arise from lack of knowledge and advice.

Marriage Guidance

The Mid Herts. Marriage Guidance Council has extended its valuable work during the year giving help to many husbands and wives meeting difficulties in their marriages. The opportunity to talk

about their difficulties to a sympathetic and experienced counsellor assists many to gain a better understanding of the origins of their differences and to make decisions regarding the future. In addition to the impact on their own lives any change of attitude for the better is reflected, to some extent, in the relationships of these people to others whom they meet in their working and social life. The effect on the children within the homes is equally significant.

Weekly counselling sessions at the Queensway Health Centre, Hatfield, commenced during the summer to augment the sessions held at Gooseacre, Welwyn Garden City and Bull Plain, Hertford. In spite of the limited availability of fully trained counsellors there was a 30% increase in marriage counselling interviews and 25% more educational counselling sessions during the year. The education counselling with groups of young people in schools and colleges and in preparation for marriage forms an important part of the work of the council, a total of 107 sessions being attended by 474 young persons. Mrs. Pamela Hawkins, Chairman of the executive committee since 1961 relinquished the post in June 1967 being succeeded by Mr. Sam Lunt. Reference should be made to the annual report of the Mid Herts. Marriage Guidance Council for detailed information on this valuable community service which will, it is to be hoped, continue to attract men and women interested in supporting marriage guidance work and perhaps for training as marriage and education counsellors.

The Barnet Marriage Guidance Council which extends its activities to Potters Bar has also commenced to hold regular weekly marriage counselling sessions at the Elms Clinic.

Venereal Diseases

Despite the efficacy of penicillin and the newer biochemical drugs available for the treatment of venereal diseases, concern has been expressed by the Ministry at the sharp increase in the spread of gonorrheoa and syphilis among young persons. The importance of seeking advice and treatment from the persons medical practitioner or from the special treatment clinic as soon as possible cannot be overstressed both for prompt diagnosis and effective treatment and also to prevent the spread of these diseases among young people.

Advice and treatment are available at the following centres:-

Bishops Stortford Herts. & Essex General Hospital	- Tuesday 9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. (Males and Females)
Hitchin Lister Hospital	- Tuesday 1 p.m. (Males and Females)
St. Albans St. Albans City Hospital	- Tuesday 4 p.m. and Thursday 12.30 p.m. (Males and Females)
Watford Shrodells Hospital	- Monday and Wednesday 4 - 6 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. - 12 noon (Males and Females)

Drug Addiction in Mid Hertfordshire

Growth and Size of the Problem

Drug taking by young persons in Hertfordshire has developed over the past three years as part of a general national pattern of drug taking in and around the larger towns in the country but in Mid Hertfordshire a relatively high incidence of heroin taking can be related in large measure to one particular trafficker in drugs now serving a prison sentence, and a direct link between a small group of drug takers in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield and a source in London now no longer available. The police drug squad based at the County Police Headquarters at Stanborough, Welwyn Garden City, is well placed to give more detailed attention to the problem in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield than in the other towns in the county. The presence of pharmaceutical manufacturing firms in Welwyn Garden City has played no part in the source of the problem as stringent precautions are taken by these firms to prevent leakage of drugs from their premises. These is evidence of experimenting by young persons taking amphetamines and smoking cannabis, mainly at week-end parties in both towns, but it is not easy to assess the prevalence of this or to know whether cannabis smoking is on the increase. As regards these latter two drugs, there is no reason for believing the problem to be any worse in Mid Hertfordshire than in other towns of similar size bordering the metropolitan area.

Only a proportion of the heroin users known to the police, hospital staff and doctors can be regarded as established heroin addicts as some have used heroin only intermittently, mainly at week-ends while associating with a group of wayward young people determined to follow a trend and now no longer take the drug. A high proportion of those attending the drug addiction centre and admitted to the wards of the psychiatric wing of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital for treatment, are maintained on less harmful alternatives and will it is to be hoped remain off heroin. It is therefore difficult at this particular time to give a figure of the total number of young people using heroin in Mid Hertfordshire. The number of registered heroin addicts notified by the Home Office is small, and cannot as yet be taken as an indication of the true number of regular takers. I am informed by Dr. McClure that a total of 39 heroin users have attended the drug addiction centre in Welwyn Garden City since it opened, 24 of whom no longer take the drug. During the same period 21 drug takers have been admitted to the psychiatric wards of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital for treatment of whom 14 previously attended at the addiction centre.

Age Group Involved

Mainly young persons aged 18 - 24 years following introduction at coffee bars, week-end parties and possibly introductions at places of work and colleges of education. The roots of the problem are probably to be found in lax moral standards and lack of true interest in the children's upbringing in a society increasingly permissive in granting adult privileges to young children before they are capable of reaching decisions for themselves as regards their behaviour, personal relationships and activities outside the home. It has always been a characteristic of youth to follow popular trends in behaviour and the habit of drug taking should be seen as just one aspect of the desire for experimentation and self assertion in these formative years. These young people leave their schools and colleges when 15 and 18 years of age and are then suddenly regarded as adults at a time when there is a wide cleavage of thought between young persons and their elders. In the whole context of youthful rebellion against adult opinion and standards it is perhaps no cause for surprise that a small number of young people are led aside into dismal blind alley of drug experimentation and abuse.

Predisposing Factors

The findings of an enquiry undertaken by the Probation Service at Watford have been confirmed by observers of the Mid Hertfordshire situation. The majority of young persons involved are of average or rather higher intelligence but have inadequate personal relationships with their parents and family at home and with young persons at school, college or place of work. Tending to be socially immature and thwarted by their inability to establish better relationships and position in their groups they resort to display and rebellious behaviour to express their frustration.

School Children

While information is received from time to time of groups of school children smoking cannabis and taking amphetamine tablets at week-end parties under conditions of lax parental supervision and guidance, the number of heroin users among school children remains very small. Four girls aged 15 - 17 years have been found to be taking heroin and in each case following consultation with their parents and the heads of the schools, the girls have been referred to their family doctors and to Dr. Roper of the Child and Family Psychiatric Clinic, or to Dr. Gander at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital for treatment. In addition to these four cases, there have been two or three children suspected of being occasional users of heroin from their association with known drug taking groups in the two towns, and also two minor incidents associated with experimentation and display in taking tablets which have been kept under the supervision of the school staff and the school psychiatric service. At the present moment no child attending school in Mid Hertfordshire is known to be taking heroin.

The following preventive measures have been applied in all secondary schools:

(a) Early in 1967 a circular letter prepared by the County Medical Officer was sent to all schools drawing attention to the drug abuse problem and providing information for the detection of addiction, the predisposing factors and advice to children and parents.

(b) A series of addresses to parent-teacher meetings have been given by Dr. Gander and the Divisional Medical Officer in secondary schools throughout the Division, usually well attended and followed by lively discussion on the responsibilities of parents in guarding their children against associating with unsatisfactory teenage groups and telling them from whom to seek advice if in difficulty.

(c) Whilst wide propaganda in schools on the perils of drug addiction is not advocated, talks to 12 to 13 year old children on the perils of meddling with drugs are recommended to be included in the framework of a more general series of talks on social and personal responsibility in the community. Suitable pamphlets and booklets have been recommended for teachers on the subject and for the parents and children. One or two talks have also been given to small groups of prefects in secondary schools, stressing the importance of reporting any incidents involving the use or talk of drugs to the teaching staff.

Drug Maintenance Centre

The Dangerous Drugs (Supply to Addicts) Regulations 1968 which came into force on the 16th April restricted the prescribing of heroin and cocaine to licensed doctors working in hospitals or drug treatment centres set up by the hospital authorities. As the number of drug addicts in Mid Hertfordshire likely to register for advice and treatment could more conveniently attend at a local centre, the Regional Hospital Board established the drug addiction centre at Trevelyan House, Welwyn Garden City on the 16th April in rooms made available by the County Council. The centre is staffed by Dr. McClure, Consultant Psychiatrist, and Dr. Trevarthen, Clinical Assistant, aided by two experienced nurses from the psychiatric wing of the hospital, two social workers of the local health authority and two receptionists. The aims of the centre are:-

(a) To bring registered heroin and cocaine users under proper supervision.

(b) To prescribe a substitute of heroin or the minimum amount necessary to maintain him until arrangements can be made for admission to hospital for withdrawal treatment.

(c) To enable doctors and social workers to assist these young persons in their long term rehabilitation by establishing contact with them and their parents initially at the centre and discussing problems arising in their work, personal relationships in the home and spare time occupations and pursuits. It has recently been found that one full evening per week provides ample time for those attending the centre to be seen. Following a review of the progress of the centre it has been decided to transfer the session to Gooseacre Health Centre on Friday evenings when more ample room is available than at Trevelyan House. Where possible the parents of the young persons attending the centre are encouraged to join in group discussion regarding the progress of treatment and rehabilitation of the drug taker and the social workers are devoting increasing time to this important work.

Hospital Treatment

Heroin takers are admitted into the wards of the psychiatric wing of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital for care during the physical withdrawal from their drug addiction. Credit is due to the medical and nursing staff of the hospital who encounter many problems and frustrations in caring for these young addicts during the stages of the physical withdrawal of heroin and substitution therapy and in undertaking the initial rehabilitation after varying periods of treatment in the wards. Physical withdrawal from the drug is achieved temporarily in a high proportion of those admitted to the wards, but continuing guidance and assistance is needed to prevent these young people relapsing to their old habits of addiction on discharge from close supervision in the hospital. There is the problem of the established drug taker with no home background to which he can return for support on discharge from hospital, and the need for a small residential hostel to take a few of these more difficult rehabilitation problems is at present under active consideration by the County Council and the Regional Hospital Board.

Study Group

One of the difficulties experienced by professional workers involved in giving assistance in the problem is in gaining up to date information on the local situation. The Divisional Medical Officer has therefore set up a group representing the various departments and professional groups involved (hospital psychiatrists, doctors, Divisional Education Officer and Heads of schools, Probation Service, Police Drug Investigation Department, Commission for the New Towns, District Council and Association of Youth Clubs and Local Branch of the A.P.A.) which meets at two monthly intervals to study the situation.

Recent Developments

The new regulations restricting the prescribing of heroin have reducedthe amount of this drug available on the black market, and the price is now too high for the regular daily user on large doses. About half of the heroin users registered at the local addiction centre or under treatment at the hospital are now off heroin and there is no doubt that the restriction of the sources of supply of this drug has greatly improved the overall situation. Unfortunately some heroin takers are known to be obtaining supplies of methedrine, a stimulant drug for injection from sources in the London area, prolonged use of which leads to physical and mental deterioration and will tend to maintain their addiction. There is evidence that the hard core of heroin addicts in Mid Hertfordshire is not extending so rapidly now as in recent months and indeed a high proportion of the new takers coming to the notice of the police have been found to have acquired the habit several months previously when heroin was more readily available. Amphetamine tablets and reefer cigarettes are still relatively easily obtainable from local peddlers but it would seem that the attention drawn to the danger in taking these drugs is resulting in some reduction in reefer cigarette smoking at week-end parties.

An increasing number of heroin takers are receiving support from the social workers of the Social Work Unit and the Hospital Social Work Department from introductions at the treatment centre and at the hospital and an additional social worker will join the staff of the Social Work Unit in Mid Hertfordshire to make additional time available for this work. The letter from the Heads of secondary schools in Welwyn Garden City to the parents of senior pupils giving warning on the present situation resulted in wide publicity in the national and local papers and has undoubtedly made many parents more aware of their responsibilities in this problem. The newly formed branch of the A.P.A. has held one or two meetings in Mid Hertfordshire to discuss the part which can be played by interested members of the public. At the last meeting of the group it was decided to set up a project committee under the chairmanship of Mr. W. Salmon to discuss with Dr. McClure how members of the A.P.A. can best assist with the problems of rehabilitation particularly the support of these young people through youth clubs and other youth activities in the area. The resources of the A.P.A. could also be used to arouse interest and raise money towards the equipping and maintenance of a hostel or rehabilitation centre should this materialise.

Future Prospects

The majority of those playing a part in controlling the drug situation in Mid Hertfordshire feel that much progress has been made during the past few months in dealing with the major problem of heroin taking by young persons in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield. The scarcity of heroin and increased public awareness of the dangers arising from drug taking has largely halted the growth of the practice in the area, and the prompt and skilled attention given to the treatment and rehabilitation of heroin takers by the hospital staff and medical practitioners promises better hope of full recovery for these unfortunate young people.

Talks to young children aged 12 - 13 years in secondary schools by the teachers on the dangers of taking drugs particularly if followed by discussion of the subject within a broad context of personal responsibility in the home and community can provide a timely warning which is accepted by the majority of pupils and supplements the advice and supervision by parents in the home. Consideration is being given to the best means of safeguarding young people especially older school children known to be associating with undesirable groups, when parental supervision is lacking, and it is in this preventive field that the youth services and activities in the two towns play an important part.

Certainly all the professional workers in the Health Education and Child Welfare Services in Mid Hertfordshire are now better informed on the steps being taken to meet the situation, and the part they are expected to play in the coordinated scheme of education.

It is still early to make a definite pronouncement on the effectiveness of the measures taken in Mid Hertfordshire, and the future situation will depend mainly upon the continued awareness of parents and children of the dangers involved in the taking of drugs when not prescribed for their proper medical purpose.